

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) A surgical kit for use in spinal surgery, comprising:
spinal implant components comprising an elongate spinal plate member and a number of
bone screws adapted to secure said elongate spinal plate member to first and second vertebrae;
instrumentation adapted for use in association with the spinal surgery and comprising a
driver including an end portion configured to drivingly engage said bone screws into engagement
with vertebral bone; and
packaging comprising a ~~common~~ single container, each of said spinal implant
components and said instrumentation integrally contained and sealed within said ~~common~~ single
container to maintain said spinal implant assembly and said instrumentation in a sterilized
condition prior to the spinal surgery, the surgical kit being self-contained to include all of the
components and instrumentation within said single container that are required to perform a
designated spinal stabilization procedure.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Presented) The surgical kit of claim 3, wherein said spinal implant
components further comprise an interbody implant adapted for disposition within an
intervertebral space between the first and second vertebrae.
6. (Original) The surgical kit of claim 5, further comprising a bone growth
promoting substance for disposition between the first and second vertebrae to facilitate fusion.

7. (Previously Presented) The surgical kit of claim 3, wherein said instrumentation is designed for planned disposal.

8. (Previously Presented) The surgical kit of claim 3, wherein said instrumentation is designed for use in association with a limited number of spinal surgeries.

9. (Original) The surgical kit of claim 8, wherein said instrumentation is designed for use in association with a single spinal surgery.

10. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 3, wherein at least a portion of said instrumentation is subject to degradation upon exposure to a sterilization procedure.

11. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 10, wherein said degradation comprises deformation.

12. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 10, wherein said degradation comprises discoloration.

13. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 10, wherein said degradation occurs gradually upon exposure to multiple sterilization procedures.

14. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 10, wherein said degradation occurs immediately upon exposure to a single sterilization procedure.

15. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 10, wherein said sterilization procedure comprises autoclaving.

16. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 10, wherein said degradation causes said instrumentation to become substantially inoperative.

17. (Currently Amended) The surgical kit of claim 3, wherein said driver comprises a multi-piece instrument assembly including a first portion and a second portion, said first portion being selectively engagable with said second portion, one of said first and second portions including said end portion adapted to drivingly engage said bone screws into engagement with vertebral bone.

18. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 17, wherein said driver comprises a first portion and a second portion, said first portion comprising a shaft, said second portion comprising a handle, said shaft including opposite first and second end portions, said first and second end portions being reversible relative to said handle, said first end portion adapted to perform a first function associated with the spinal surgery, said second end portion adapted to perform a second function associated with the spinal surgery.

19. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 18, wherein said first end portion comprises a first tip configuration adapted for engagement with a first element associated with said spinal implant components, said second end portion comprising a second tip configuration adapted to for engagement with a second element associated with said spinal implant components.

20. (Previously Presented) The surgical kit of claim 17, wherein said instrumentation is configured to perform multiple functions associated with the spinal surgery.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The surgical kit of claim 3, wherein said ~~common~~ single container includes a plurality of compartments sized to receive respective components of said spinal implant components and said instrumentation therein.

23. (Currently Amended) The surgical kit of claim 24, wherein said inner container and said outer ~~container~~ tray of said packaging are each formed of a material capable of providing direct visualization of said spinal implant components and said instrumentation contained therein.

24. (Currently Amended) The surgical kit of claim 3, wherein said packaging comprises an inner container and an outer ~~container~~ tray, said inner container comprising said ~~common~~ container which contains and maintains said spinal implant components and said instrumentation in said sterilized condition, said inner container sealed within said outer ~~container~~ tray to maintain said inner container in a sterilized condition prior to the spinal surgery.

25. (Currently Amended) The surgical kit of claim 24, wherein said outer ~~container~~ tray includes a first removable seal to provide selective access to said inner container, said inner container including a second removable seal to provide selective access to said spinal implant components and said instrumentation contained therein.

26. (Previously Presented) The surgical kit of claim 3, further comprising a template including a number of images corresponding to one or more select sizes of said spinal plate member, one of said template images corresponding to a size of said spinal plate member included with the surgical kit.

27. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 26, wherein said template is provided external to said packaging to provide access to said template without compromising said sterilized condition of said spinal implant components and said instrumentation.

28. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 27, wherein said template includes an indication of a magnification factor associated with said template images.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) A surgical kit for use in spinal surgery, comprising:
a surgical equipment set, including:
a spinal plate;
a number of bone screws adapted to secure said spinal plate to first and second vertebrae; and
a driver instrument adapted to drive said bone screws into engagement with vertebral bone; and
packaging adapted to integrally contain and maintain said surgical equipment set in a ~~common~~ container in a sterilized condition prior to the spinal surgery.

31. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 30, wherein said bone screws are self-cutting bone screws.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 30, wherein said surgical equipment set includes an interbody implant adapted for disposition within an intervertebral space between the first and second vertebrae.

34. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 30, wherein said driver instrument is designed for planned disposal.

35. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 30, wherein at least a portion of the driver instrument is subject to degradation upon exposure to a sterilization procedure.

36. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 30, wherein said driver instrument extends generally along a longitudinal axis and comprises a shaft portion and a handle portion, said

handle portion including a first portion rotatably coupled to a second portion to provide relative rotational movement therebetween about the longitudinal axis.

37. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 30, wherein said driver instrument comprises a shaft portion and a handle portion, said shaft portion being selectively engagable with said handle portion.

38. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 37, wherein said shaft portion includes opposite first and second end portions, said first and second end portions being reversible relative to said handle portion, said first end portion comprises a first tip configuration adapted for engagement with said bone screws, said second end portion comprising a second tip configuration adapted to for engagement with a second element associated with said spinal plate.

39. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 30, further comprising a template including a number of images corresponding to one or more select sizes of said spinal plate, one of said template images corresponding to a size of said spinal plate included with the surgical kit, said template being provided external to said packaging to provide access to said template without compromising said sterilized condition of said surgical equipment set.

40.-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 10, wherein said at least a portion of said instrumentation subject to degradation upon exposure to said sterilization procedure is formed of a metallic material.

57. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) The surgical kit of claim 10, wherein said packaging integrally contains and maintains said spinal implant and said instrumentation in a ~~common~~ container in a sterilized condition prior to the spinal surgery.

58. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 10, wherein said spinal implant comprises an elongate member and a number of bone anchors adapted to secure said elongate member to first and second vertebrae.

59. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 10, wherein said packaging comprises an inner container and outer container, said inner container adapted to contain and maintain said spinal implant and said instrumentation in said sterilized condition, said outer container adapted to contain and maintain said inner container in a sterilized condition prior to the spinal surgery.

60. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 18, wherein at least one of said first and second portions of said instrumentation is subject to degradation upon exposure to a sterilization procedure.

61. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 60, wherein said degradation comprises deformation.

62. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 60, wherein said degradation comprises discoloration.

63. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 60, wherein said degradation occurs gradually upon exposure to multiple sterilization procedures.

64. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 60, wherein said degradation occurs immediately upon exposure to a single sterilization procedure.

65. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 60, wherein said degradation causes said instrumentation to become substantially inoperative.

66. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) The surgical kit of claim 18, wherein said

packaging integrally contains and maintains said spinal implant and said instrumentation in a ~~common~~ container in a sterilized condition prior to the spinal surgery.

67. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 18, wherein said spinal implant comprises an elongate member and a number of bone anchors adapted to secure said elongate member to first and second vertebrae.

68. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 18, wherein said packaging comprises an inner container and outer container, said inner container adapted to contain and maintain said spinal implant and said instrumentation in said sterilized condition, said outer container adapted to contain and maintain said inner container in a sterilized condition prior to the spinal surgery.

69. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 68, wherein said outer container includes a first removable seal to provide selective access to said inner container, said inner container including a second removable seal to provide selective access to said spinal implant and said instrumentation contained therein.

70. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) The surgical kit of claim 27, wherein said packaging integrally contains and maintains said spinal implant and said instrumentation in a ~~common~~ container in a sterilized condition prior to the spinal surgery.

71. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 27, wherein said spinal implant comprises an elongate member and a number of bone anchors adapted to secure said elongate member to first and second vertebrae.

72. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 27, wherein said packaging comprises an inner container and outer container, said inner container adapted to contain and maintain said spinal implant and said instrumentation in said sterilized condition, said outer container adapted to contain and maintain said inner container in a sterilized condition prior to the spinal surgery.